

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 6, 2006, the Advisory Action dated June 19, 2006, and the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review dated August 14, 2006, have been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 23-28 are cancelled without prejudice. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance, do not raise require further search and/or consideration, and do not contain new matter.

Applicants are grateful for the indication in the Advisory Action that claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-22 and 29-32 are allowed. Applicants submit that the Amendments to claims 5 and 12 filed in the Supplemental Response that was filed on July 6, 2006 overcame the previous objections to these claims according to the Notice of Panel Decision dated August 14, 2006.

Thus, the Office Action rejected claims 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over US Patent No. 6,665,861 to Faris et al., in view of US Patent No. 6,138,158 to Boyle. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of these claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that in light of the above amendments and remarks, each of claims in the application is in condition for allowance. All pending claims (1-22 and 29-32) have been allowed. No outstanding issues remain.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "DLB", is written over a horizontal line.

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